

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Detlef ALBIN, et al.

Serial No.: 08/650,709

Filing Date: May 20, 1996

Confirmation No.: 2931

Examiner: Clark F. Dexter

Art Unit: 3724

For: **PROCESS AND DEVICE FOR THE COARSE FRAGMENTATION  
OF AQUEOUS POLYMER GELS**

**FILED ELECTRONICALLY VIA EFS-WEB**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW**

Sir:

In response to the Office communication mailed July 10, 2006, the following is a summary of the interview with Examiner Dexter held on June 22, 2006. **If any fees for the accompanying response are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 502190.**

**Summary of Interview** begins on page 2 of this paper.

### **Summary of Interview**

The Office communication mailed July 10, 2006 has been reviewed. The following is a summary of interview held on June 22, 2006, recorded to the best of the Attorney's recollection of the event.

A telephonic interview was held on June 22, 2006. Participants in the interview were Examiner Clark Dexter and Philip P. McCann, attorney for the applicant. No exhibit was shown during the interview, nor was a demonstration conducted during the interview. Specific prior art discussed during the interview included Finke et al. (US 3283633) and Anderson et al. (US 2,735,488).

Existing claims 28, 29, 31 and 32 were discussed during the interview. Principal proposed amendments of substantive nature discussed during the interview are set forth in the following claims 28 and 31 as indicated by strikethrough for proposed deletions from the existing claims and underlined for proposed additions to the claims. The proposed amendments were made to Claim 28 that was entered in the July 22, 2002 Amendment, and Claim 31 that was entered in the December 5, 2003 Amendment as evidenced by the date stamped post card and the Interview Summary mailed March 22, 2004.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) A device for processing a hydrous polymer gel of variable thickness, comprising:

a first cutting roll having at least one axially extending cross cutting element including a cutting edge; and

a back-up roll spaced from said cutting roll so as to form a nip, whereby said at least one cutting edge cooperates with said back up roll to cut a layer of hydrous polymer gel at the nip;

said first cutting roll being mounted above the ~~rotational~~ longitudinal axis of said back-up roll such that a smallest distance between said cutting edge of the at least one cross cutting element and said back-up roll is situated below and upstream ~~[[in a]]~~ of a crown of the back-up roll with respect to a substantially linear conveying path direction of the [[a]] layer of hydrous polymer gel as it approaches to be cut at the nip, with respect to a crown of the back-up roll, whereby said at least one cutting edge cooperates with said back-up roll to cut the layer of hydrous polymer gel at the nip wherein when said cutting edge is positioned at said smallest distance, said cutting edge is positioned below and upstream of said crown, and wherein said cutting edge of said first cutting roll is a continuous cutting edge to completely separate a downstream portion of the hydrous polymer gel from the remainder of the hydrous polymer gel.

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) A device for processing a hydrous polymer gel of variable thickness, comprising:

a first cutting roll having at least one axially extending cross cutting element including a cutting edge;

a back-up roll spaced from said cutting roll so as to form a nip,

said first cutting roll being mounted above the ~~rotational~~ longitudinal axis of said back-up roll such that a smallest distance between said cutting edge of the at least one cross cutting element and said back-up roll is situated below and upstream of a crown of the back-up roll with respect to a substantially linear conveying path direction of a layer of hydrous polymer gel as it approaches to be cut at the nip, wherein when said cutting edge is positioned at said smallest distance, said cutting edge is positioned below and upstream of said crown, and wherein said cutting edge of said first cutting roll is a continuous cutting edge to completely separate a

downstream portion of the hydrous polymer gel from the remainder of the hydrous polymer gel;  
and

a conveyor positioned and arranged to convey the [[a]] layer of hydrous polymer gel  
along said conveying path to the nip as ~~a substantially planar sheet~~, wherein said cutting edge of  
the at least one cross cutting element ~~edge extends the width of the layer of hydrous polymer gel~~  
~~so that said at least one cutting edge~~ cooperates with said back-up roll to cut the layer of hydrous  
polymer gel at the nip.

The general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the Examiner was that the  
present claims, as set forth in the proposed amended claims 28 and 31 is directed to a device for  
the cutting of a hydrogel polymer into separated pieces whereas the prior art Finke et al. is  
directed at perforation of a bag material wherein holes are made in the bags, but the bags are not  
separated as set forth in the present invention. The difference of the knives and the positioning of  
the knife units was also discussed.

No other pertinent matters were discussed during the interview.

The general result of the interview was that the Attorney for the Applicant would review  
the subject matter of the interview and the proposed claims with the Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

/Philip P. McCann/

Philip P. McCann  
Registration No. 30,919  
SMITH MOORE LLP  
P.O. Box 21927  
Greensboro, NC 27420  
(336) 378-5302

Date: August 9, 2006

File No.: 5003073.068US1